

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Radioactive material stolen from CMPDI

261. MS. MABEL REBELLO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a container packed with radioactive material was stolen from Jharkhand's Central Mine Planning and Development Institute (CMPDI);

(b) whether it carried uranium and could have an adverse effect in an area of 1.5 Kilometers;

(c) whether it is also a fact that it was stolen from densely populated town of Rajrappa, which was sent from a federal atomic facility near Mumbai;

(d) the quantity of uranium stolen and how highly is this uranium enriched; and

(e) what would be its impact both physically and mentally on the total population, if it finds way into rivers, rivulets or food chains?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE PRIME MINISTER'S OFFICE (SHRI PRITHVIRAJ CHAVAN): (a) A nucleonic gauging device belonging to Central Mine Planning and Design Institute (CMPDI), Ranchi under Ministry of Coal, was reportedly stolen from their R&D Complex within the premises of Rajrappa coal washery. The gauging device weighing about 45 kg. contained a low strength (300 mCi) radioactive source well shielded in a lead container.

(b) and (c) No, Sir.

(d) Not applicable in view of (b) above.

(e) The radioactive source is well shielded and is of low strength. Any access to or tampering of the source is extremely difficult due to engineering design features of the device. Accordingly, it is highly unlikely to have any significant radiological impact on the public domain.